

1. A method of producing a laminate comprising the following steps:

5 (a) Forming patches from a substantially unidirectional fabric, treated with a resin; the patches being formed to predetermined shape(s) and size(s) to suit the product in which the laminate is to be used;

(b) Forming substantially loose and randomly oriented patches;

(c) Distributing said substantially loose and randomly oriented patches in layers around a product mould;

10 (d) Causing said layers of patches once distributed around said product mould to amalgamate by means of activation of the resin treatment.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the means for distributing patches in step (c) is a suction device.

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3. The method of Claim 1 wherein the means for distributing patches in step (c) is a pneumatic conveyor.

20 4. The method of any of the preceding claims in which the said patches have an average surface area of no greater than 20% of the surface area of the layer formed in step (c).

5. The method of any of the preceding claims in which a multiplicity of patch shapes and/or sizes is employed.

25 6. The method of any of the preceding claims, wherein the distributing step is carried out at a controlled temperature, whereby patches are prevented from sticking to each other during said step.

30 7. The method of any of the preceding claims, comprising the step of forming a group of patches where one or more patches traverse at least part of the thickness of said laminate.